



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

July 17, 2006

Ordinance

Proposed No. 2006-0305.1

Sponsors Constantine, Hague and Phillips

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to protecting lives and property
2 by controlling flooding in King County; declaring the
3 intention of the King County council to create a
4 countywide flood control zone district and to dissolve
5 existing flood control zone districts within the county as
6 required by state law.

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9 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

10 **SECTION 1. Findings:**

11 A. Every year, King County faces significant threats from flooding, the impacts
12 of which are far-reaching and pose significant threats to public health and safety and
13 economic activities throughout the county.

14 B. Flooding impacts public infrastructure, including transportation corridors and
15 critical public safety facilities, as well as private businesses and personal residences, all
16 of which are vital to the health, safety and well-being of citizens throughout the entire
17 county.

18 C. Throughout King County there are nearly five hundred aging flood protection
19 facilities that, because of historical and current revenue limitations, cannot be repaired or
20 maintained adequately. In addition, there are significant needs for new or enhanced flood
21 protection facilities and measures throughout the county.

22 D. Since 1990 King County has been declared a flood disaster area seven times.
23 Floods in future years are also expected to exceed the capacity and protective abilities of
24 existing flood protection facilities, thereby threatening property, lives, major
25 transportation corridors, communities and regional economic centers. This potential for
26 significant flooding threatens the health, safety and prosperity of citizens countywide.

27 E. The impacts of flooding can be severe and extend far beyond the floodplain
28 itself. Buildings can be damaged along with household furnishings and business
29 inventories. In addition to the direct threats and damage from floodwater, people face the
30 threat of electrocution, explosions and fires caused by leaking gas lines and damaged
31 electrical lines. Severe flooding can also destroy utility infrastructure, causing extensive
32 disruptions in service. Loss of power and communication are common with severe
33 floods. Damage to drinking water and wastewater facilities can also spread disease. In
34 addition, impacts to roads and highways can impair the mobility of people, goods and
35 services -- including emergency service vehicles and personnel.

36 F. One of the most fundamental functions of government is to protect citizens
37 and public and private property from the ravages of natural disasters such as flooding.

38 G. Flood control needs exist throughout the county, and an integrated and
39 coordinated approach is needed to effectively and efficiently address those needs.

40 H. Chapter 86.15 RCW authorizes the county council to initiate the creation of a
41 countywide flood control zone district within King County for the purpose of
42 undertaking, operating or maintaining flood control projects or storm water control
43 projects, among other powers. A countywide district could address flood and storm
44 water control needs throughout the county, including within King County cities.

45 I. Forming a district is a multi-step process that begins with this ordinance
46 declaring the intent to create a district and setting a public hearing. A second ordinance
47 is necessary to create the district.

48 J. Certain flood control zone districts exist in the county, including those
49 specified on Attachment A to this ordinance. However, only the Green River Flood
50 Control Zone District has an ongoing revenue source.

51 K. RCW 86.15.023 provides that the council may not establish a flood control
52 zone district that includes areas located in another flood control zone district unless such
53 area is removed from the other district, or the other district is dissolved, as part of the
54 action creating the new flood control zone district.

55 L. This ordinance constitutes the resolution to initiate the creation of a proposed
56 countywide flood control zone district, consistent with RCW 86.15.020 and the resolution
57 describing the proposed boundaries of the district and the flood control needs of the
58 district, as required by RCW 86.15.030.

59 SECTION 2. The council intends to create a countywide flood control zone
60 district covering the entire area of King County with proposed boundaries as set forth in
61 Attachment B to this ordinance. The new district shall be known as the "King County
62 Flood Control Zone District."

63 SECTION 3. The council finds and determines that since 1986 within the
64 proposed boundaries of the King County Flood Control Zone District major flood events
65 along King County's rivers have resulted in more than fifty-seven million dollars of
66 damage to public and private property. The one-hundred-year floodplain in King County
67 covers more than twenty-five thousand acres in the county or close to forty square miles.
68 As of 2005, there were more than two thousand structures in the one-hundred-year
69 floodplain with a total assessed valuation of two billion seven hundred million dollars.
70 The flood control needs in King County are described more extensively in chapter 3 of
71 the 2006 King County Flood Hazard Management Plan.

72 SECTION 4. Dissolving existing flood control zone districts is a statutory
73 prerequisite to the formation of a countywide flood control zone district, and the
74 proposed King County Flood Control Zone District will address flood control needs
75 throughout the county. Therefore, consistent with the requirements of chapter 86.15
76 RCW, the council declares its intention to dissolve the existing flood control zone
77 districts within the county, including the flood control zone districts specified and
78 described in Attachment A to this ordinance.

79 SECTION 5. All persons who may desire to be heard with respect to the creation
80 of the countywide flood control zone district or the dissolution of existing flood control
81 zone districts are notified to appear at a meeting of the council to be held in King County
82 Council Chambers Room 1001 King County Courthouse, 516 Third Ave. Seattle at 1:30
83 pm , local time, on July 31, 2006, which time and place are fixed for hearings on the
84 creation of the countywide district and the dissolution of the existing flood control zone
85 districts within the county. The council finds that the hearing dates are not more than

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thirty days after the adoption of this ordinance. Notice of the public hearings shall be provided in accordance with RCW 36.32.120(7).

SECTION 6. Upon adoption of this ordinance, the clerk of the council or the clerk's designee shall cause notices of the intent to form a countywide flood control zone district and to dissolve existing flood control zone districts in the county to be provided to the King County Boundary Review Board, consistent with chapter 36.93 RCW.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

ATTEST:

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, ____.

Attachments A. Existing Flood Control Zone Districts, B. King County Flood Control Zone District Boundaries (Countywide)